

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

November 25, 2003

The global epidemic of HIV infection and AIDS requires a worldwide effort to increase compassionate and honest communication, education, and united action to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) observes December 1 of each year as World AIDS Day, with the goal of raising awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS for all peoples worldwide and as a day to expand and strengthen efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus local, national and international attention on HIV infection and AIDS and to disseminate information on how to prevent the spread of HIV, and to increase our understanding and compassion for those living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk for infection. World AIDS Day also encourages each of us to embrace a world where fear, shame, ignorance and injustice are overcome by acknowledging how stigma and shame related to sexuality, gender identification and drug use contributes to the increase in the number of people diagnosed with HIV and AIDS.

UNAIDS estimates that by the end of 2003, over 42 million people worldwide will be living with HIV/AIDS, with 95% of all AIDS cases occurring in the world's poorest countries, with 12 million young people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS and 14 million children who have lost one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS. An estimated 900,000

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people in the United States are currently living with HIV/AIDS, with over 53,000 estimated living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County and with the majority of new HIV infections in the United States occurring among youth and an estimated 75% of all new HIV infections occurring among people of color.

The World AIDS Day 2003 theme, "Live and Let Live," encourages both individuals and institutions to reflect on how they respond to those living with HIV and AIDS and to create an environment where people can take responsibility for themselves and others by confronting stigma and discrimination across the world so that the fight for a world without HIV/AIDS will be won.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors proclaim December 1, 2003 as World AIDS Day in the County of Los Angeles and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS as a global challenge, to take part in HIV/AIDS prevention activities and programs, and to join the global effort to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

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